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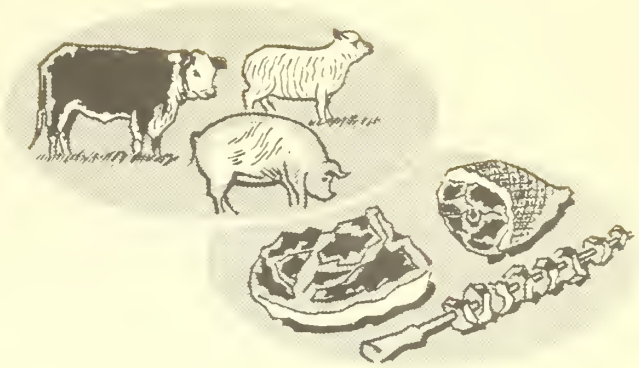
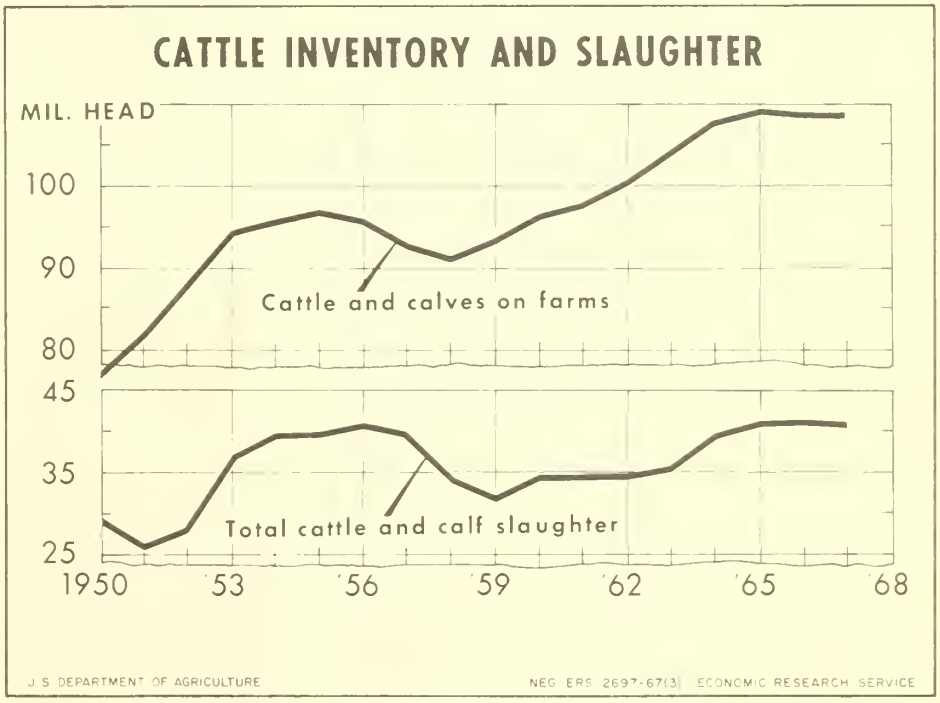
LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION



LMS-154 For Release March 15, P.M. MARCH 1967

The number of cattle on farms declined 0.4 million during 1966 to 108.5 million on January 1 this year. The number of animals on farms rose from a cyclical low of 91.2 million head on January 1, 1958, to a peak of 109 million head on January 1, 1965. Larger cattle slaughter during the past 2 years more than offset additions to the inventory from calf crops and live cattle imports.

Some further decline in the cattle inventory is expected this year. However, beef cattle numbers are expected to increase moderately as they have in the past 2 years.



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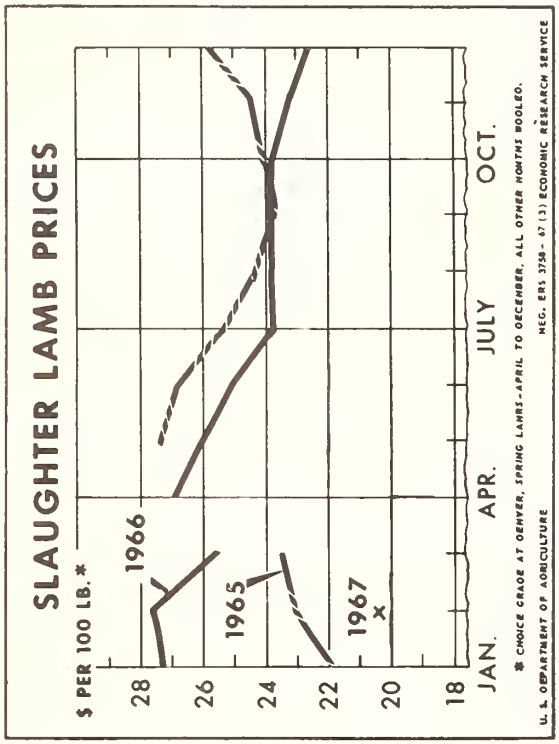
SLAUGHTER LAMB PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
28
26
24
22
20
18
1966
1965
1967
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CHOICE GRADE AT DENVER, SPRING LAMBS-APRIL TO DECEMBER, ALL OTHER MONTHS WOOLED.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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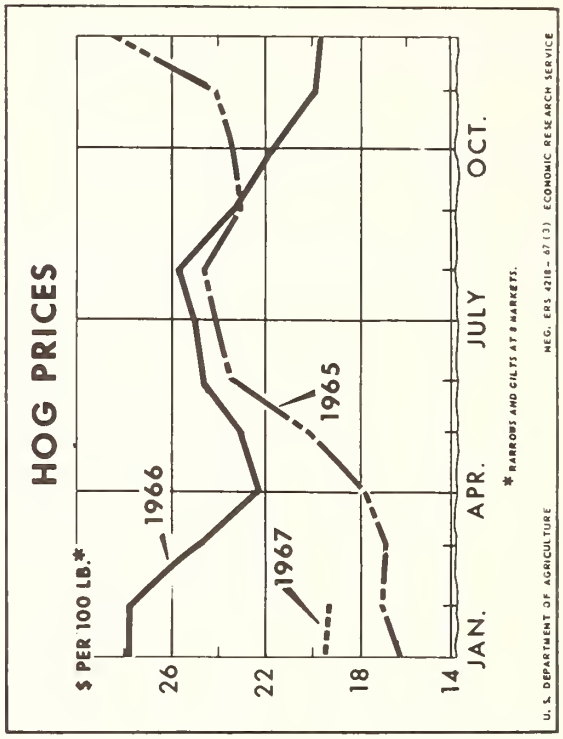
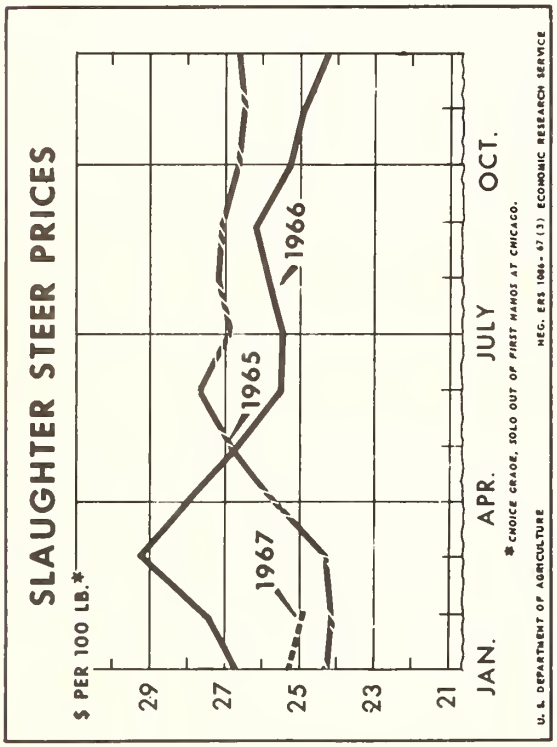
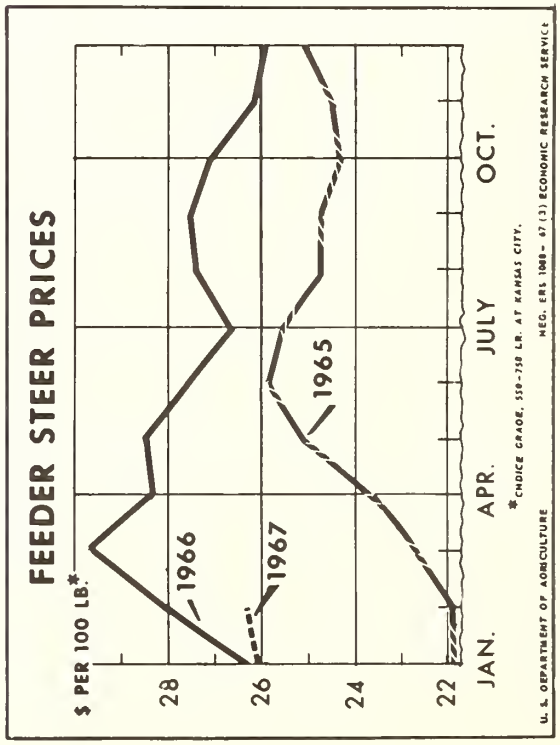

HOG PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
26
22
18
14
1966
1965
1967
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* BARROWS AND GILTS AT 8 MARKETS.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 4218-67(3) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
29
27
25
23
21
1965
1966
1967
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CHOICE GRADE, SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT CHICAGO.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 1086-67(3) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE


FEEDER STEER PRICES
$ PER 100 LB.*
28
26
24
22
1966
1967
1965
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CHOICE GRADE, 550-750 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. ERS 1088-67(3) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Livestock and Meat Situation

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, March 7, 1967

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SUMMARY

CATTLE: Beef production in 1967 is expected to continue around last year's high level. Recent upward revisions in cattle inventory numbers suggest that the capacity to produce beef is about the same as in other recent years.

Fed cattle marketings in January-February were larger than a year earlier. Total beef production was up over 4 percent in January. In addition, pork production was up a fourth and poultry production was 15 percent larger. Choice steers at Chicago have averaged about $25 per 100 pounds in recent weeks. Continued large supplies of fed beef and substantially larger pork supplies probably will keep fed cattle prices around current levels into the spring. Some price strength for fed cattle is expected by late spring because of a narrowing in fed cattle marketings over a year earlier, increasingly smaller supplies of non-fed beef, and seasonally smaller pork supplies. This strength is expected to carry through the summer and fall. But with prospects for continued large supplies, the price advance is likely to be modest.

Revised data based on the 1964 Census of Agriculture show 108.5 million cattle and calves on farms at the beginning of this year. This is 371,000 less than a year earlier, and only 509,000 below the peak of 109 million on January 1, 1965. The number of milk cows on farms declined 786,000 during 1966, more than offsetting an increase of 159,000 beef cows. The total calf crop in 1967 probably will be slightly smaller than last year, but the beef calf crop is expected to be as large or larger.

Cattle and calf slaughter (and death losses) in 1965 and 1966 was about in balance with the calf crop and imports of live animals. Changes in the total cattle inventory, therefore, were moderate. This is likely to be the situation again in 1967. The number of beef animals is expected to increase moderately and the number of dairy cattle is expected to decline further, although less rapidly than in the past 2 years.

HOGS: Hog slaughter this winter has been substantially larger than a year ago, but the increase over a year earlier probably will narrow later in the year. During the last several months, returns to producers have not been as high as early in 1966 when prices were at record levels. Hog producers appear to be slowing the expansion in production that began late in

1965. Producers had 10 percent more sows farrow in the fall of 1966. But producers have stated plans to have 6 percent more sows farrow in early spring and the same number as a year earlier in late spring. If spring farrowings are about in line with stated intentions, hog slaughter toward the end of the year likely will be around year-earlier levels.

Prices of barrows and gilts at 8 markets were a little above $19 per 100 pounds in late February--a little below last fall's prices. Prices are expected to strengthen seasonally this spring. However, the summer high is expected to be somewhat lower than the August 1966 average of $25.75. If the spring pig crop is up moderately, as now indicated, and beef supplies continue large, hog prices this fall probably will average a little below last fall's average of $20.37 for barrows and gilts at 8 markets.

SHEEP: The inventory of sheep and lambs on farms declined 4 percent during 1966--the 7th consecutive year of decline and the lowest level since records have been kept. There were 23.7 million sheep and lambs on farms January 1 this year. Even though slaughter in 1967 probably will be smaller than in 1966, some further decline in the inventory is likely this year.

In February, lamb prices at Denver averaged $20.50, or $2-$3 below those of last fall. Prices declined this winter when slaughter rates rose sharply above a year earlier and fed lambs were held to extremely heavy weights. An increase in lamb prices is expected this spring when slaughter supplies drop below a year ago and weights decline as new crop lambs move to market.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Livestock Numbers Hold Steady

The index of meat animals on farms and ranches on January 1, 1967, was 111 (1957-59=100). This was the same as a year earlier, but 2 points lower than the record high of 113 on January 1, 1964. Total cattle numbers declined less than ½ percent from a year earlier, although milk cow numbers dropped 5 percent. Sheep and lambs were down 4 percent from a year earlier. Hog numbers, on the other hand, were up 8 percent. Chickens increased 9 percent, while turkeys were up 6 percent from last year.

The inventory value of cattle, hogs, and sheep on farms and ranches January 1, 1967, was $18.3 billion. It was up about 7 percent from the $17.1 billion a year earlier. A substantial increase in the value of cattle more than offset declines in value of hogs and sheep. Although the number of cattle was down slightly, the value of all cattle totaled $16.2 billion--up 12 percent from a year earlier. Although the number of hogs and pigs on farms was up 8 percent, their value--$1.7 billion--was down 20 percent. The value of the sheep inventory declined by 4 percent.

The January 1 estimates in Tables 1 and 2 have been revised for 1961-66 on the basis of data obtained from the Census of Agriculture (taken in the fall of 1964) and other data which have become available since the original estimates were made. Revisions by States for the years 1961-65 are shown in Statistical Bulletin No. 389, entitled Livestock and Poultry Inventory, January 1. This bulletin is available on request.

The revision for January 1, 1966, reflects the changes made over the 6-year period. The changes from the previously reported 1966 estimates are as follows: all cattle, up 2,305,000; cows 2 years old and over kept for milk, down 620,000; other cows, up 1,797,000; other beef cattle, up 1,671,000; stock sheep, down 1,661,000; hogs and pigs, down 3,816,000.

Table 1.--Number of livestock on farms and ranches January 1, United States, 1956 to date 1/

Year	Number on farms January 1				Index numbers, by groups (1957-59=100)			
	All cattle and calves	All sheep and lambs	Hogs	Chickens	Total livestock and poultry	Meat animals	Milk cattle	Poultry
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head				
1956	95,900	31,157	55,354	383,690	104	104	107	98
1957	92,860	30,654	51,897	391,363	100	100	105	102
1958	91,176	31,217	51,517	374,281	98	98	100	97
1959	93,322	32,606	58,045	387,002	102	102	95	101
1960	96,236	33,170	59,026	369,484	104	104	93	96
1961	97,700	32,725	55,560	366,082	104	104	92	98
1962	100,369	30,969	56,619	377,392	107	107	90	99
1963	104,488	29,176	57,993	375,575	110	110	87	99
1964	107,903	27,116	56,757	382,262	112	113	83	100
1965	109,000	25,127	50,792	394,118	112	112	80	103
1966	108,862	24,734	47,414	393,019	111	111	75	104
1967 2/	108,491	23,727	51,035	427,619	111	111	72	113

1/ Data for 50 States beginning in 1961.
2/ Preliminary.

Table 2.--Number of cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, by classes, United States, 1956 to date 1/

Year	For milk				Not for milk					
	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Heifer calves	Total	Cows and heifers, 2 years and over	Heifers, 1 to 2 years old	Calves	Steers, 1 year old and over	Bulls, 1 year old and over	Total
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1956	22,912	5,407	5,890	34,209	25,371	6,206	18,869	9,483	1,762	61,691
1957	22,325	5,267	5,699	33,291	24,534	5,926	18,405	8,991	1,713	59,569
1958	21,265	5,126	5,571	31,962	24,165	5,903	18,275	9,252	1,619	59,214
1959	20,132	5,050	5,526	30,708	25,112	6,557	19,407	9,931	1,607	62,614
1960	19,527	5,079	5,575	30,181	26,344	7,036	20,425	10,574	1,676	66,055
1961	19,271	5,016	5,446	29,733	27,327	7,115	20,814	10,997	1,714	67,967
1962	18,963	4,887	5,264	29,114	28,691	7,446	22,300	11,103	1,715	71,255
1963	18,379	4,708	4,935	28,022	30,589	8,108	23,747	12,251	1,771	76,466
1964	17,647	4,395	4,692	26,734	32,794	8,612	25,243	12,669	1,851	81,169
1965	16,981	4,149	4,420	25,550	34,238	8,989	26,181	12,134	1,908	83,450
1966	15,987	3,860	4,151	23,998	34,433	8,925	26,879	12,749	1,878	84,864
1967 2/	15,201	3,619	4,059	22,879	34,592	9,162	27,262	12,733	1,863	85,612

1/ Data for 50 States beginning in 1961.
2/ Preliminary.

CATTLE

The supply prospects for beef this year, as well as for the next several years, increased as a result of the revisions in the cattle inventory for the 1961-66 period. Revisions (made on the basis of information recently made available from the 1964 Census of Agriculture) point to larger beef production than was previously estimated. The major significance to the beef industry of the revised inventory report is that cattle numbers are still near the peak of the cattle cycle and the capacity to produce beef in the next several years is largely unchanged from the past 3 years.

There were 108.5 million head of cattle and calves on farms January 1, 1967, down 371,000 from a year earlier. Although the number of beef animals increased by 748,000 head to 85.6 million, this was more than offset by a 1.1 million head reduction in dairy cattle. Milk cow numbers were reduced 786,000 head, while dairy calves and dairy heifers were down 333,000 head. In the beef sector, numbers by classes and changes from last year are: heifers 9.2 million head--up 237,000; calves, 27.3 million head--up 383,000; beef cows, 34.6 million head--up 159,000. The numbers of beef steers and bulls were relatively unchanged. This was the 9th consecutive year of buildup in beef cows. In the past 2 years, the total cattle inventory has declined by 509,000 head from the peak in 1965. All of the decline has occurred in the dairy herd. The beef cattle inventory has increased by approximately 2.2 million head, with beef cows increasing by 354,000 head.

Production Capacity Unchanged

The capacity to produce beef during 1967 and 1968 is largely unchanged from 1965 and 1966. Cattle slaughter (and death losses) in 1966 were about in balance with additions to the inventory (calf crop and cattle imports). The earlier inventory estimate, available at the beginning of 1966 had indicated that the high slaughter rate last year would result in a reduction of 1.5 to 2.0 million in cattle numbers.

The supply of young beef cattle at the beginning of this year--either in feedlots, or available for feedlot placement, or additions to breeding herds--was up more than 600,000 from a year earlier. Thus, fed cattle marketings in 1967 could be as large or larger than in 1966 without reducing the inventory of calves and yearlings carried into 1968.

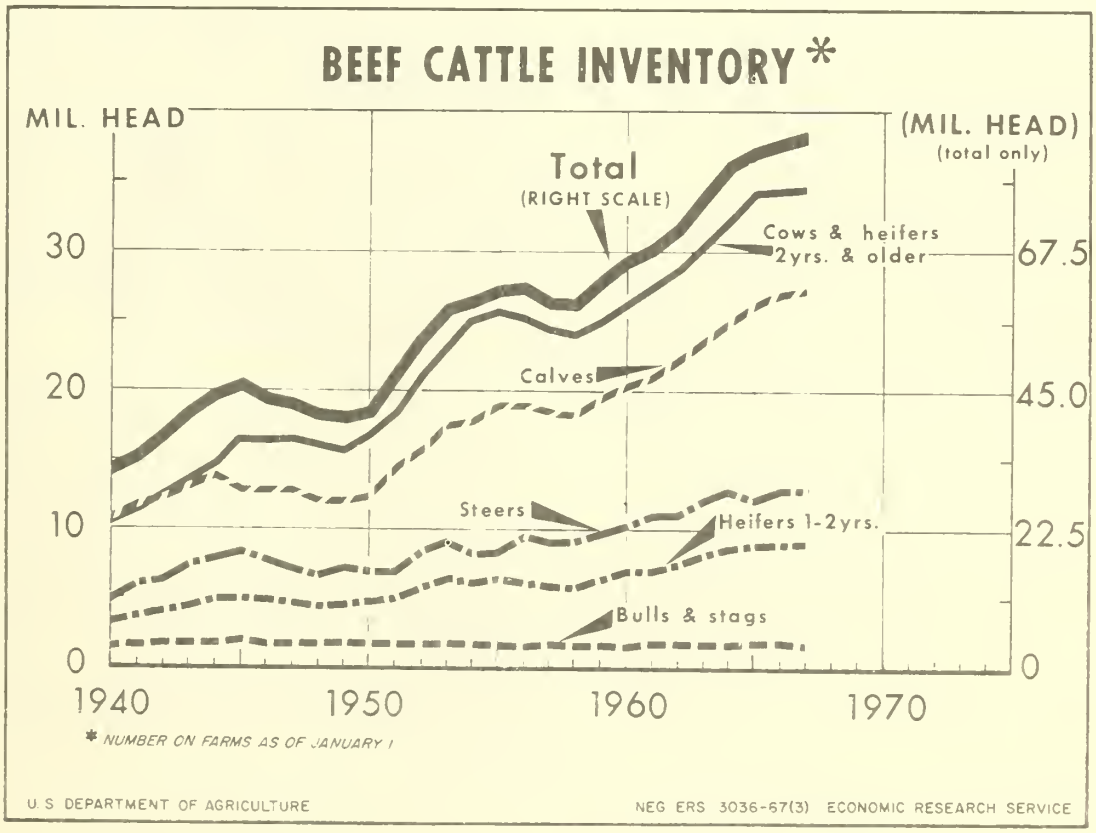
Inventory revisions indicate that the number of cows on farms from 1961 to date was substantially larger than had earlier been estimated. Consequently, calf crops during the past several years were underestimated. Instead of a significant liquidation as implied by the earlier estimates, cattle and calf slaughter in 1966 was about in balance with birth, imports, and the beginning inventory. Thus, the beef industry, with only moderate reductions in calf slaughter, can continue to provide around 100 pounds of beef per capita each year during the next several years without reducing the inventory of cattle and calves.

The number of beef calves on January 1, 1967, was larger than last year, even though total cow numbers on January 1, 1966, were down 1.6 percent from a year earlier. The 1966 calf crop was down 455,000 head but all of the decline was in the dairy calves. The beef calf crop was larger than the previous year. Also contributing to the increase in the supply of beef calves on January 1 was a 780,000 head decline in calf slaughter in 1966.

A similar situation is expected to occur in 1967. Total cow numbers on January 1, 1967, were down more than 600,000 head from a year earlier. However, as in 1966, all of the decline was in dairy cows. The number of beef cows increased more than 150,000 head.

Table 3.--Selected price per 100 pounds of cattle by months, Omaha, 1966-67

Month	Choice steers		Choice feeder steers 550-750 lb.		Utility cows	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	25.68	24.64	26.56	26.75	15.58	16.68
February	27.11	24.03	28.00	26.50	17.82	17.36
March	28.12		29.45		19.39	
April	26.87		29.12		19.16	
May	25.78		28.89		19.26	
June	25.06		28.75		18.44	
July	25.25		28.50		17.32	
August	25.79		28.35		18.53	
September	25.70		28.59		18.50	
October	24.82		27.76		17.46	
November	23.96		26.80		16.21	
December	23.65		26.75		16.40	



A continued large supply of cattle is expected to be available for feedlot placement again next year. The total calf crop in 1967 will be down somewhat, but the number of beef calves likely will be up from a year earlier. Therefore, the size of the carryover of beef calves into 1968 likely will be larger than this year's.

Unlike past periods when total cattle numbers decreased, the capacity to produce beef has not declined in the past 2 years. But on the other hand, beef cow herds have not expanded markedly. In effect, cattlemen appear to be waiting for beef demand to catch up with supplies at prices favorable to producers.

Since prospective beef supplies and cattle prices in 1967 are not expected to differ greatly from 1966, it is unlikely that there will be any sustained effort by cow-calf operators to substantially increase their breeding herds this year. Thus, the inventory of all cattle and calves is expected to show another slight decline in 1967.

Holding the size of the beef breeding herd relatively steady this year would help maintain price stability in an industry frequently hurt by boom and bust periods in the cattle cycle.

Slaughter Continues Large

Cattle slaughter under Federal inspection during the first 8 weeks of 1967 averaged about the same as a year earlier, despite an increase in fed cattle marketings. A 13 percent decrease in cow slaughter more than offset a 4 percent increase in steer and heifer slaughter. The increased proportion of steers and heifers as well as heavier slaughter weights resulted in a 3.5 percent increase in beef output. Fed cattle marketings are expected to continue at least moderately above year-earlier levels through the first half of the year. Slaughter of cows and other nonfed cattle are likely to continue below year-earlier levels.

Feeder Supply Close To A Year Ago

The number of young beef cattle totaled 49.2 million head on January 1, 1967, up about 600,000 or 1.2 percent from a year earlier. Steers, 1 year old and older, were down slightly, but heifers, 1 to 2 years old and steer and heifer calves were up 237,000 and 383,000 head. Because there were 7 percent more cattle and calves on feed January 1, the number of young animals outside feedlots and still available for either feedlot placement or for addition to breeding herds was down by almost 100,000 head.

The makeup of the feeder cattle supply outside of feedlots is also somewhat different than a year earlier. The number of yearling steers was down almost 600,000 head. However, this was partly offset by a 245,000 head increase in steer calves and an increase of about 250,000 head in heifers 1 to 2 years old and heifer calves.

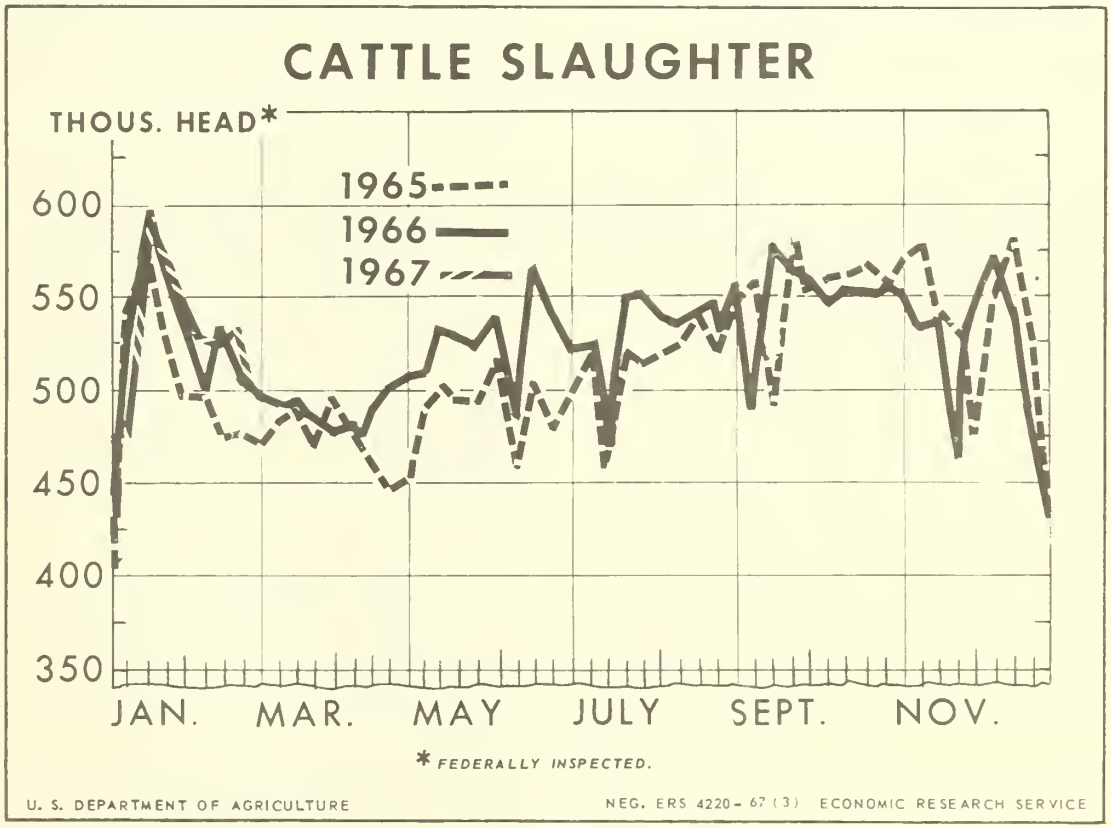
There were 2 percent fewer steer calves on feed January 1 than a year earlier but 9 percent more steers on feed. A wider price spread between yearling steers and steer calves last fall apparently influenced many cattle feeders to buy yearlings rather than calves. For example, in the last quarter of 1966, 300-550 pound steers averaged $3.29 per 100 pounds more than those weighing 550-750 pounds. This compares with a spread of $2.47 in the third quarter and $1.84 a year earlier. Also, lack of good wheat pasture last fall and poor range conditions in some areas resulted in faster movement of yearlings into feedlots. In January and February, the price spread between calves and yearlings continued between $3 and $4.

Although the supply of young beef cattle outside of feedlots is down slightly from a year earlier, the available supply is adequate to enable a further increase in feedlot placements and marketings during the balance of 1967. In 1966, steer and heifer slaughter totaled around 25.6 million head. Approximately 5.3 million of these did not move through feedlots. Although it is not likely that all steers and heifers moved to slaughter off grass were suitable for feedlot feeding, a considerably larger portion could have been fed.

Any increase in the proportion of steers and heifers moved through feedlots

Table 4.--Selected prices per 100 pounds of cattle, by months, 1966-67

Month	Chicago				Kansas City			
	Choice steers		Utility cows		Good feeder steers 550-750 lb.		Choice feeder steer calves	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	26.87	25.25	15.83	16.98	24.01	23.36	28.19	29.69
February	27.79	24.92	17.72	17.92	25.40	23.44	30.96	29.69
March	29.22		19.51		26.57		32.45	
April	27.98		19.70		26.26		31.27	
May	26.75		19.54		26.39		31.80	
June	25.49		18.83		25.37		30.90	
July	25.41		17.86		23.91		29.02	
August	25.85		18.37		24.78		29.81	
September	26.11		18.46		24.88		30.21	
October	25.50		17.52		23.74		30.09	
November	24.94		16.53		23.55		29.71	
December	24.50		16.40		23.06		29.31	
Average	26.29		18.02		24.83		30.31	



before slaughter would increase the total beef supply during the current marketing year without affecting beef slaughter or supplies in succeeding years. However, an early placement of those animals that are normally held over to the following year would result in reduced production potential in the succeeding year.

Placements On Feed Likely To Continue Large

In view of the feedlot capacity available, placements on feed during the rest of the year are likely to equal or exceed the level attained in 1966. Weather conditions, of course, will also be an important factor later in the year. Poor forage conditions in the range areas would likely lead to an early and larger than normal movement into feedlots.

Feeder cattle prices have made only a slight seasonal advance this winter. In late February, 550-750 pound Choice feeder steers at Kansas City averaged $26.32--70 cents above late December but more than $3 below a year earlier. It is unlikely that much further seasonal strength will develop this winter and spring, due to the large supply of feeder cattle and the lower level of fed cattle prices. However, expanded feedlot capacity will likely maintain sufficient demand to keep feeder cattle prices above fed cattle prices for the next several months.

Fed Cattle Marketings Up, Steady Prices Expected Into Spring

Fed cattle marketings during January-March likely will average above the fourth quarter of 1966 and a year earlier. The number of cattle on feed in 32 States on January 1 totaled 11.1 million head--up 7 percent from a year earlier. Cattle feeders stated intentions to market 8 percent more cattle out of feedlots during the first quarter than the 4.8 million marketed during the same period a year earlier.

Steer and heifer slaughter under Federal inspection during the first 8 weeks of 1967 averaged only 4 percent above a year earlier. Fed cattle marketings in 5 States (California, Arizona, Texas, Colorado, and Nebraska) in January were about the same as a year earlier. Although non-fed steer and heifer slaughter has probably been down substantially, fed cattle marketings probably have not been as large as would be expected from marketing intentions.

Fed cattle marketings this spring likely will continue above the year-earlier level of 5.2 million head; how much above will depend in part on whether or not marketings have been delayed this winter and on the number and weight of feedlot placements this winter. Last year, placements during January-March totaled 4.8 million head, up 23 percent from the 3.9 million placed on feed during the winter of 1965. Even if placements this winter are below those of a year earlier, marketings are likely to continue above 1966 levels this spring. The number of steers and heifers on feed on January 1 in the weight groupings that will supply the bulk of slaughter supplies during April-June was up substantially. The combined number of steers weighing 700-900 pounds and heifers weighing 500-700 pounds was up 7 percent.

Beef production, particularly fed beef, will likely be up even more than marketings this winter and spring. In addition to an increase in fed cattle marketings, slaughter weights through February have been averaging between 1 to 2 percent above a year earlier. Consequently, even though the number of cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection in January was about the same, beef production was up 3.5 percent. Heavier averaged weights are likely to continue during the next several months until the large number of heavy cattle on feed is worked off.

Prices for Choice steers at Chicago averaged $25.25 per 100 pounds during January--$1.62 below a year earlier, but 75 cents above December 1966. Prices continued about steady to slightly lower in February and averaged $24.67 in the week ending February 23. Expected large fed beef and pork supplies will continue to exert pressure on prices during the next few months. Thus, fed cattle prices are expected to continue to average around current levels the balance of the winter and into spring. A narrowing in the margin

Table 5.--Number of cattle and calves slaughtered under Federal inspection, by class, United States, by months 1966 to date

Month	Steers		Heifers		Cows		Calves	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
January	1,150	1,229	551	587	572	518	382	372
February	1,010		497		501		376	
March	1,129		558		511		459	
April	1,083		526		463		370	
May	1,190		562		461		318	
June	1,270		592		494		325	
July	1,154		574		472		313	
August	1,247		657		523		361	
September	1,203		652		520		390	
October	1,135		617		546		389	
November	1,126		576		551		384	
December	1,149		573		506		366	
Total	13,846		6,935		6,120		4,432	

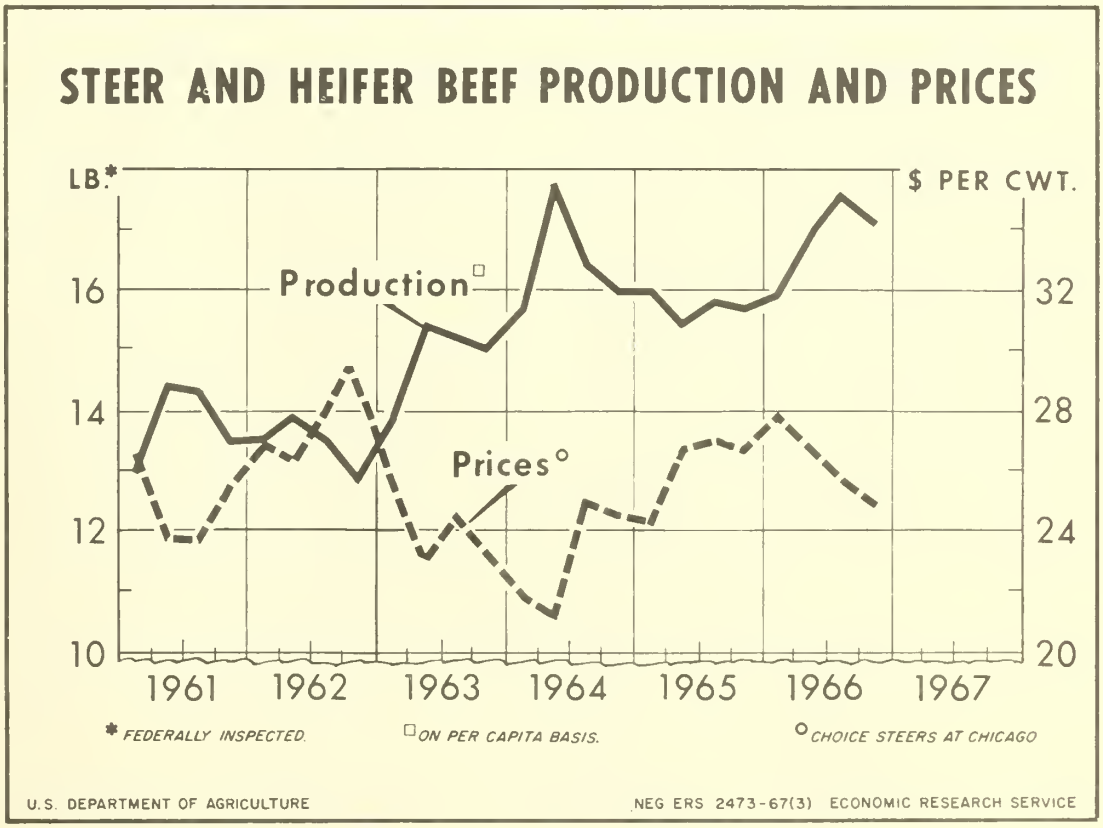


Table 6.--Average liveweight of steers sold out of first hands at 7 markets, by months, 1964 to date

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
PRIME													
1964	1,231	1,218	1,266	1,270	1,263	1,273	1,274	1,268	1,271	1,265	1,239	1,232	1,255
1965	1,239	1,237	1,249	1,253	1,261	1,249	1,240	1,244	1,252	1,227	1,218	1,213	1,238
Change from 1964	+8	+19	-17	-17	-2	-24	-34	-24	-19	-38	-21	-19	-17
1966	1,221	1,224	1,224	1,243	1,243	1,240	1,223	1,238	1,253	1,237	1,215	1,188	1,224
Change from 1965	-18	-13	-25	-10	-18	-9	-17	-6	+1	+10	-3	-25	-14
1967	1,202												
Change from 1966	-19												
CHOICE													
1964	1,182	1,187	1,193	1,184	1,172	1,167	1,150	1,129	1,121	1,125	1,136	1,148	1,159
1965	1,155	1,152	1,142	1,141	1,136	1,130	1,113	1,101	1,098	1,100	1,118	1,134	1,126
Change from 1964	-27	-35	-51	-43	-36	-37	-37	-28	-23	-25	-18	-14	-33
1966	1,151	1,143	1,135	1,139	1,144	1,148	1,133	1,126	1,119	1,128	1,139	1,144	1,138
Change from 1965	-4	-9	-7	-2	+8	+18	+20	+25	+21	+28	+21	+10	+12
1967	1,159												
Change from 1966	+8												
GOOD													
1964	1,129	1,124	1,119	1,096	1,080	1,062	1,038	1,024	1,040	1,050	1,069	1,074	1,076
1965	1,085	1,062	1,046	1,044	1,043	1,034	1,014	1,016	1,020	1,037	1,060	1,084	1,048
Change from 1964	-44	-62	-73	-52	-37	-28	-24	-8	-20	-13	-9	+10	-28
1966	1,098	1,076	1,066	1,060	1,072	1,070	1,047	1,038	1,046	1,068	1,100	1,124	1,071
Change from 1965	+13	+14	+20	+16	+29	+36	+33	+22	+26	+31	+40	+40	+23
1967	1,116												
Change from 1966	+18												
ALL GRADES													
1964	1,166	1,168	1,170	1,152	1,140	1,134	1,115	1,099	1,094	1,102	1,114	1,121	1,132
1965	1,127	1,116	1,103	1,101	1,105	1,105	1,092	1,081	1,084	1,088	1,106	1,123	1,103
Change from 1964	-39	-52	-67	-51	-36	-29	-23	-18	-10	-14	-8	+2	-29
1966	1,141	1,127	1,118	1,119	1,126	1,128	1,113	1,112	1,111	1,122	1,139	1,145	1,125
Change from 1965	+14	+11	+15	+18	+22	+23	+21	+31	+27	+34	+33	+22	+22
1967	1,153												
Change from 1966	+12												

of fed cattle marketings over a year earlier during the spring, plus seasonally lower pork supplies as well as smaller supplies of non-fed beef, may result in some moderate price strength by late spring.

Any delay or holdback of fed cattle marketings in expectation of a stronger market would likely result in price difficulties later when these cattle are marketed. Moving cattle out of feedlots as soon as they reach the desired grade would limit the supply of fed beef and lend strength to markets; at the same time it would reduce costs because the cost of gain increases substantially as cattle are held to heavier weights.

The expected strength in fed cattle prices during late spring or early summer is likely to be carried through the end of the year. However, with prospects for continued large supplies of fed beef, only a moderate advance in prices is expected. Fed beef supplies after midyear likely will be about as large to slightly larger than a year earlier. But consumer demand is expected to remain strong, and supplies of lower grade beef probably will be smaller.

Calf Crop And Slaughter Down In 1967

The 1967 calf crop is expected to be about 1 percent smaller than a year earlier. An estimated 5 percent decline in the dairy calf crop will more than offset a slight increase in the number of beef calves.

Commercial calf slaughter last year totaled 6.6 million head. This was 10 percent less than a year earlier, and the smallest calf slaughter since 1918 when 6.5 million head were slaughtered.

Calf slaughter has declined significantly in recent years, because an increasing proportion of cattle are being slaughtered as mature animals and fewer as calves. In 1946, calf slaughter totaled about 33 percent of the calf crop; in 1956, 30 percent; in 1966 about 15 percent. It likely will be even less this year.

The major reasons for the decline in calf slaughter have been the reduction in dairy cattle numbers, the increasing prominence of the cattle feeding industry, and an increasing proportion of calves carried to mature weight before slaughter. In the last 20 years dairy cattle numbers fell 37 percent. In 1966, over 20 million head of cattle were moved through feedlots--up 82 percent from 1956. Almost 72 percent of last year's calf crop was still on farms on January 1 this year, compared with 52 percent 20 years ago.

So far in 1967, calf slaughter has been substantially below that in early 1966. Federally inspected calf slaughter through late-February averaged 12 percent below the relatively low levels of a year earlier. Slaughter rates are expected to continue well below year-earlier levels through the balance of the year. Thus, the number of 1967 beef calves carried through into 1968 likely will be up moderately from the 27.3 million head of this past January 1, even though the total 1967 calf crop is likely to be 1 percent less than the 1966 crop.

Cow Slaughter To Continue Lower; Prices Expected To Remain Strong

Cows slaughtered under Federal inspection totaled 6.1 million head last year--8 percent below a year earlier. High slaughter rates during the first 5 months of 1966 were more than offset by a sharp drop in slaughter during the remainder of the year. The overall reduction in cow slaughter during 1966 was due largely to reduced marketings of dairy cows. For example, Canner and Cutter cow slaughter was 14 percent below 1965, while slaughter of other grades was about the same.

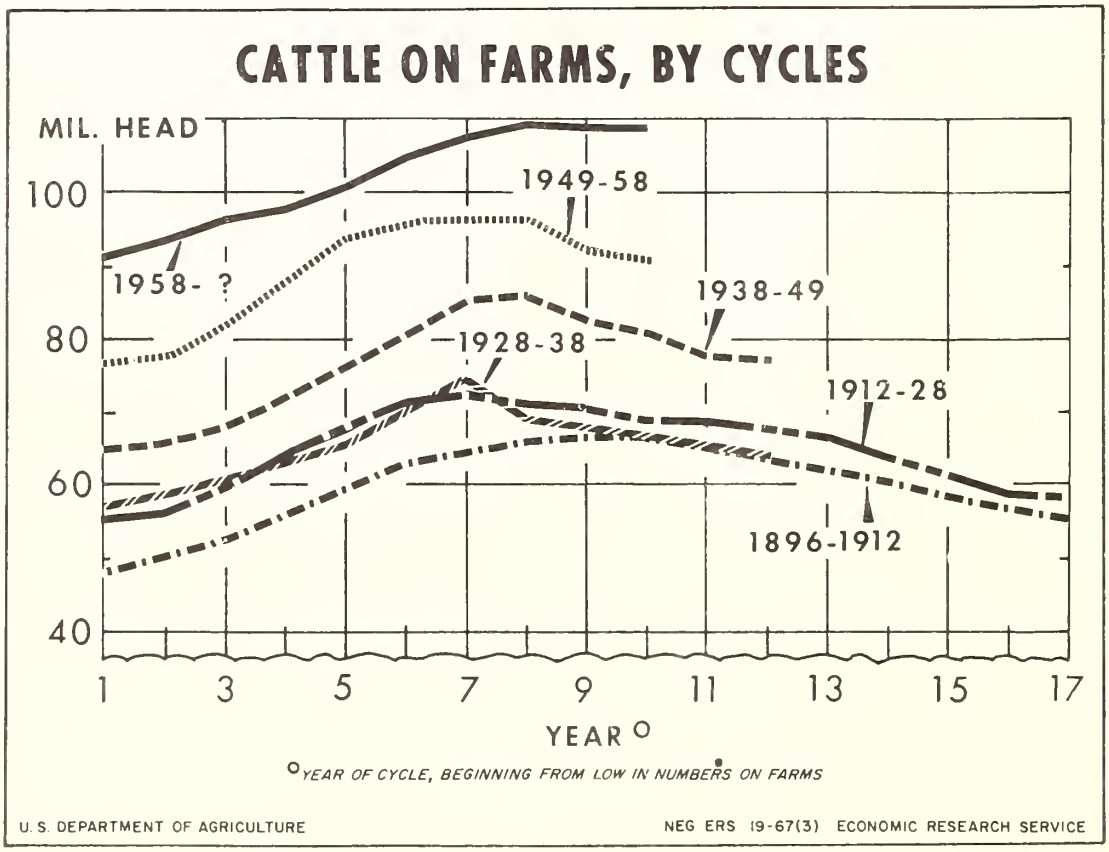
The number of dairy cows on farms was reduced 786,000 head last year, but this was less than the 994,000 head reduction in 1965. Dairy cattle numbers are expected to continue to decline this year but at a slightly slower rate. With fewer dairy cows moving to slaughter, total cow slaughter in 1967 is expected to be moderately smaller than a year earlier. However, should a significant buildup in beef breeding herds develop, a somewhat sharper reduction in cow slaughter would occur. Conversely, a liquidation of beef cows,

Table 7.--Calf and lamb crops, 1961 to date

Year	Breeding stock on farms January 1		Annual crops			
			Number		Ratio to breeding stock on farms January 1 1/	
	Cows and heifers 2 years old and older	Ewes 1 year old and older	Calves	Lambs 2/	Calves	Lambs
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head		
1961	46,598	22,199	40,180	20,782	86	94
1962	47,654	21,252	41,441	19,712	87	93
1963	48,968	20,028	42,268	18,516	86	92
1964	50,441	18,723	43,809	16,994	87	91
1965	51,219	17,502	43,928	16,312	86	93
1966	50,420	16,850	43,473	15,879	86	94
1967	49,793	16,223				

1/ Not strictly a birth rate. Figure represents crop as a percentage of the January inventory and not the number giving birth during the year.

2/ Lambs living July 1, or sold before June 1 in the Native States and lambs docked or branded in the Western Sheep States.



either as a result of widespread drought or adverse economic conditions, would push cow slaughter to or above the 1966 level.

The lower cow slaughter in recent months has been accompanied by relatively strong prices. Last year, Utility grade cows at Omaha averaged $17.84 per 100 pounds--up $3.40 from the previous year, and the highest since 1958. Prices were particularly strong in the first part of the year, averaging more than $19.75 in late-March--about $6 above a year earlier. Prices weakened gradually as cow slaughter increased seasonally, and in December were around $16.50--still about $2 above a year earlier. Higher cow prices in 1966 resulted largely from substantially reduced pork supplies early in the year, lower cow slaughter in the second half and continued strong demand for processing meats. Imports of beef in 1966, most of which is suitable for processed meat items, were 28 percent larger than a year earlier.

So far this year, cow prices have generally strengthened from late 1966 levels, reflecting the seasonal decline in cow slaughter. In late-February, Utility cows at Omaha averaged $17.38 per 100 pounds--$1.83 above mid-December but about $1 below a year earlier. Cow prices may show some further seasonal strength this spring but the increase likely will be moderate. Larger pork supplies, larger imports of processing beef, and heavy supplies of fed beef, will tend to limit any significant price advance from current levels.

USDA Meat Purchases

On March 1 the USDA announced plans to purchase Choice grade frozen boneless roasts and ground beef for use in the school lunch program next fall. Initial offers are due March 14 and subsequent offers on each Tuesday until further notice.

The purchase program for canned chopped meat, prepared principally from pork, for distribution to needy families will continue. Funds for these programs are available under Section 32, Public Law 320-74.

HOGS

Hog Slaughter Up, But Expansion Moderating

Hog slaughter has been very large this winter. Weekly slaughter under Federal inspection has been around a fourth larger than last winter.

Although hog slaughter supplies increased throughout 1966, the expansion in pig crops that got underway late in the fall of 1965 apparently is now moderating. Producers had 10 percent more sows farrow during the 1966 fall farrowing season, but indicated plans to have only 3 percent more sows farrow this spring. Thus, if producers carry out these plans, increases in hog slaughter over a year earlier will narrow as the year progresses. Hog slaughter under Federal inspection in the first half of 1966 was 9 percent smaller than a year earlier, but second half slaughter was 10 percent larger. Thus, while hog slaughter this winter has been considerably larger than the unusually small kill a year ago, second half slaughter will be much closer to the stepped up supplies in this period last year.

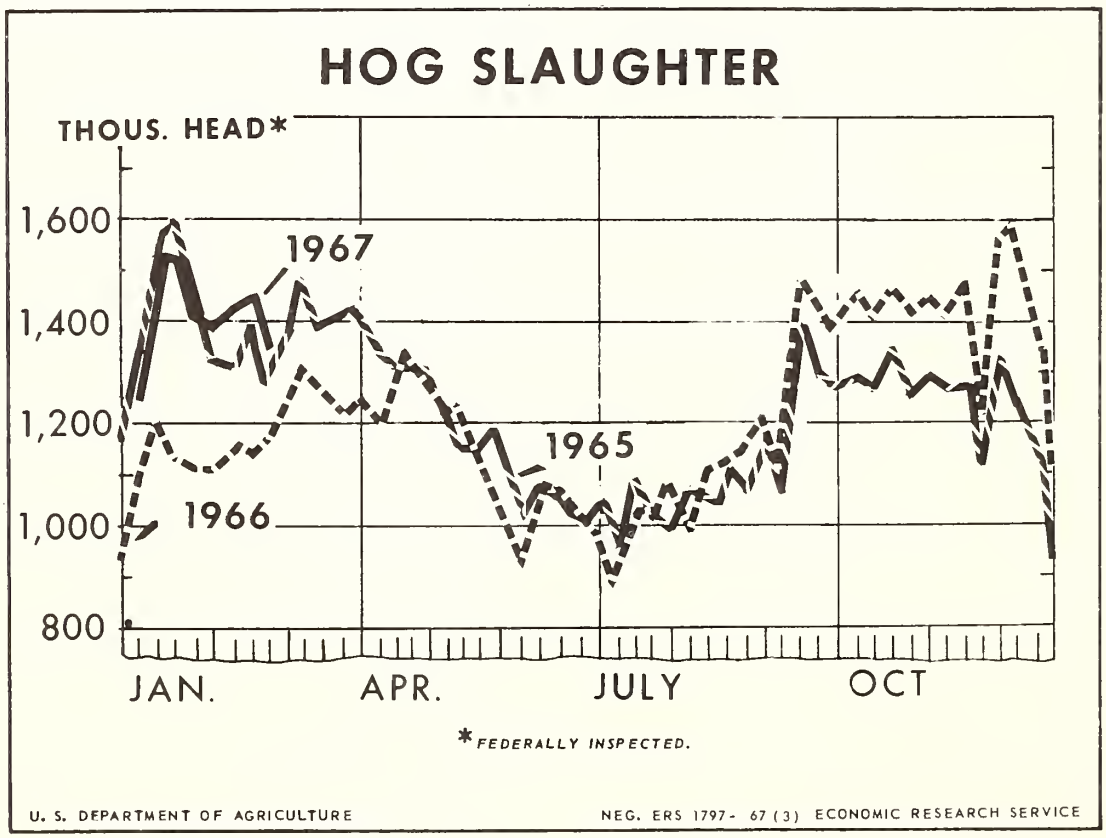
Hog producers in 10 Corn Belt States stated intentions on December 1 to have 6 percent more sows farrow in December 1966-February 1967 than a year earlier. They intended to have the same number of sows farrow in March-May as a year earlier. Another pig crop report will be released March 21. It will include March 1 intentions of hog producers in 10 Corn Belt States for the spring farrowing season and for the early months of the fall season.

Some moderation in the expansion is apparently developing because returns to hog producers are currently not as large as they were in the second half of 1965 and during most of 1966. Production costs are higher than they have been in several

Table 8.--Selected prices per 100 pounds of livestock, by months, 1966-67

Month	Barrows and gilts at 8 markets 1/		Sows at 8 markets 1/		Choice lambs at Denver		Choice feeder lambs at S. St. Paul	
	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967	1966	1967
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	27.93	19.46	23.84	15.52	27.72	2/	27.24	21.02
February	27.80	19.39	25.09	16.17	27.62	20.50	28.27	20.69
March	24.41		21.80		25.42		26.27	
April	22.26		18.87		26.86		24.39	
May	23.16		18.35		26.00		23.00	
June	24.72		19.16		25.11		21.20	
July	25.09		19.40		23.75		21.58	
August	25.75		21.45		23.85		21.81	
September	23.16		20.91		23.89		22.54	
October	21.57		19.40		23.81		22.35	
November	19.87		16.86		23.02		21.58	
December	19.67		15.08		22.60		22.75	
Average	23.49		19.77		24.97		23.58	

1/ Average for all weights at Midwest markets. 2/ No price quoted.



years. For example, prices of hog feed (14 to 18 percent protein) averaged $4.60 per 100 pounds in mid-February--more than 6 percent above last winter. The hog-corn price ratio averaged about 15 to 1 in mid-February, compared with the unusually high ratios above 20 early in 1966.

Summer and Fall Slaughter Likely To Continue Above A Year Earlier

Hog producers are expected to continue to market considerably more hogs this spring and summer than they did in these months last year. However, by mid-year the increase over year-earlier marketings likely will be much less than in the first half. The September-November 1966 pig crop in 10 Corn Belt States was 8 percent larger while producers said they intended to have only 6 percent more sows farrow during December 1966-February 1967.

Based on farrowing intentions, supplies next fall would be only slightly above a year earlier. The March Pig Crop Report to be released March 21 will indicate the size of the late spring pig crop, and provide a clearer picture of probable slaughter supplies next fall.

Hog Prices Below 1966

Pork production in recent months has been considerably larger than a year earlier and prices have been substantially lower. Barrow and gilt prices at 8 markets averaged a little over $19 per 100 pounds in late-February. This was about $8 per 100 pounds less than the unusually high levels at the same time in 1966 and a little below last fall, but was higher than in most other recent years.

Hog prices are expected to strengthen in late spring and to rise after mid-year to a summer peak. If hog slaughter is moderately larger this summer the July-September average price likely will be down somewhat from the $25 average a year earlier. Also, summer prices this year will be tempered somewhat more than last year because of the expected larger movement of pork out of cold storage. Cold storage holdings of pork were quite small a year ago, and had only a small effect on prices as they moved into consumption last summer. On February 1 this year, cold storage holdings of pork, at 255 million pounds, were 64 percent larger than a year earlier, but still 2 percent below the 1961-65 average for this date.

If the spring pig crop is up moderately, increases in hog slaughter over a year earlier will be much smaller toward the end of the year than during the summer months. Thus, hog prices next fall may average a little below the October-December 1966 average of $20.37 per 100 pounds for barrows and gilts at 8 markets.

Fed beef production is expected to continue large this spring and summer and to be a stiff competitor of pork.

Heavier Hog Weights Influenced Prices In 1966

Hog weights affect prices because a change in average weight leads to a corresponding percentage increase or decrease in total pork production; and market prices of lightweight and heavyweight hogs of similar quality differ because heavy hogs usually are discounted.

Barrows and gilts at Chicago averaged 234 pounds per head in 1966. This was 4 pounds more than a year earlier.

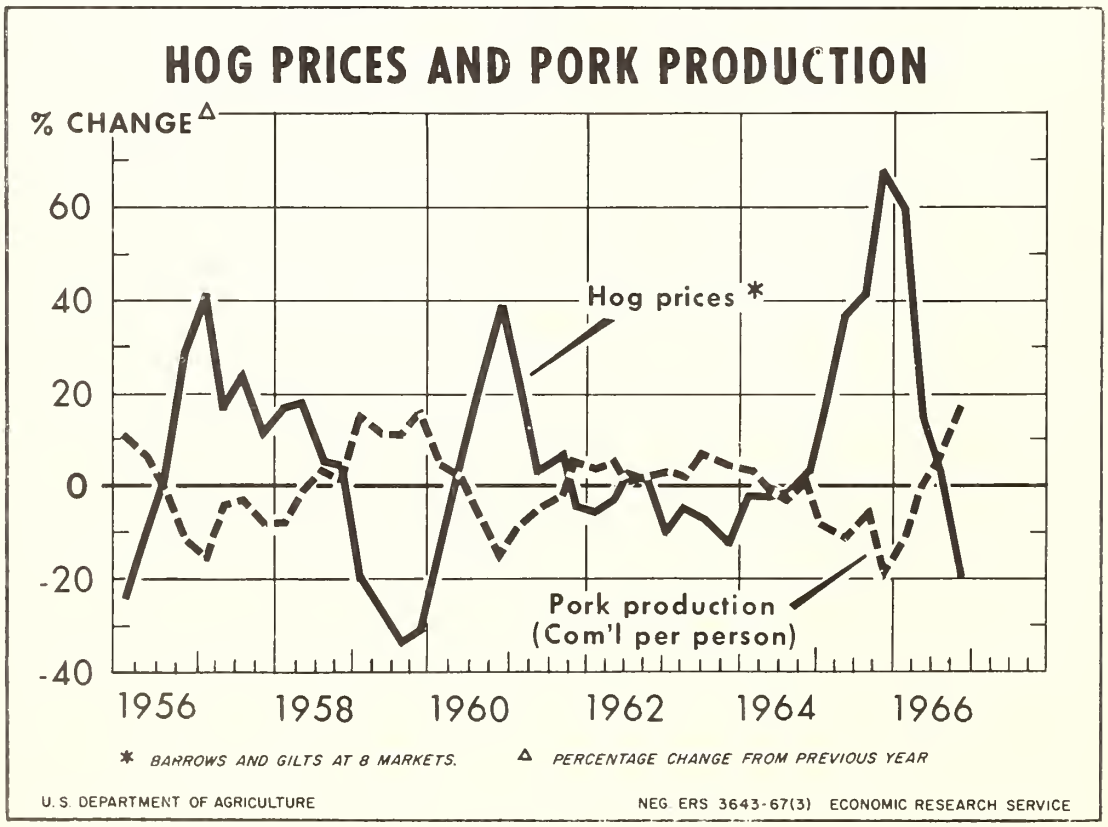
Prices of hogs weighing 240 to 270 pounds at Chicago in 1966 averaged $1.14 less than hogs weighing 200 to 220 pounds per head. This discount was about double what it has been in other recent years.

Producers have continued to feed to heavy weights so far this year. Price discounts on hogs weighing more than 240 pounds have remained larger than in other recent years (except 1966). Since hog prices in 1967 will average moderately below the unusually high prices last year, hog producers likely will want to market hogs at weights bringing a price premium.

Table 9.--Average weight of barrows and gilts at 8 markets, and price spread by weights at Chicago, 1963 to date

Month	Average live weight, 8 markets					Price spread 240-270 lb. from 200-220 lb. at Chicago				
	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Jan.	236	238	237	241	243	- .83	- .89	-.99	-1.46	-1.43
Feb.	231	234	231	237	236	- .62	- .89	-.60	-1.13	-1.05
Mar.	229	234	230	237		- .33	- .89	-.53	- .91	
Apr.	231	237	233	241		- .45	- .86	-.60	-1.65	
May	233	239	234	243		- .54	- .99	-.68	-1.74	
June	232	237	232	239		- .67	-1.16	-.68	-1.23	
July	225	232	229	228		- .34	- .64	-.41	- .62	
Aug.	221	226	225	224		- .14	- .49	-.18	- .32	
Sept.	222	228	226	227		- .14	- .30	-.21	- .81	
Oct.	227	235	232	233		- .43	- .75	-.36	- .53	
Nov.	232	236	236	239		- .66	- .96	-.85	-1.39	
Dec.	234	234	236	241		-1.07	- .86	-.90	-1.83	
Average	230	234	232	236		- .51	- .81	-.58	-1.14	

Compiled from data of Market News, Livestock Division, C&MS.



SHEEP AND LAMBS

Inventory Declines Sharply; Further Decline In 1967

The liquidation of sheep and lamb inventories on farms that began in 1961 continued last year. On January 1, 1967, there were 23.7 million head on hand. This was 4 percent less than a year earlier and about 28 percent less than the 1960 beginning inventory of 33.2 million head. The number of ewes 1 year old and older in the January 1 inventory also was 4 percent smaller than a year earlier.

The decline in the sheep and lamb inventory during 1966 was sharper than had been expected. From preliminary data, it appeared that the number of lambs slaughtered (and death losses) in 1966 was about in balance with the 1966 lamb crop. However, the recently released, revised inventory data indicate that the lamb crop last year was smaller than the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered. This resulted in the substantial decline in the January 1 inventory. However, the decline of a million head in 1966 was considerably less than the average 1.6 million head decline per year in the previous 5 years.

Prices received by farmers for lambs in the early 1960's averaged between $15 and $20 per 100 pounds. However, lamb prices averaged $22.70 in 1965 and averaged $1 higher last year. With increased prices to farmers and near average grazing conditions in 1966, it was earlier expected that producers would withhold a sufficient number of ewe lambs to stablize the inventory. But the number of sheep and lambs slaughtered under Federal inspection was down only 1.4 percent in 1966, and it would have taken about a 10 percent decline in slaughter to stablize the inventory.

Inventory liquidation of sheep and lambs was general throughout the country. The number of stock sheep in the 11 Western States plus Texas and South Dakota totaled 15.2 million head--down 3 percent from January 1, 1966. Stock sheep in the 35 Native States totaled 5.4 million head--down 6 percent from a year earlier. Connecticut, California, and Alaska were the only States where the number of stock sheep on farms increased during 1966.

Sheep numbers are expected to show a further decline in 1967. The 1967 lamb crop probably will be about 4 percent smaller than the 15.9 million lambs saved a year earlier. Slaughter this year would have to be about 15 percent less than in 1966 to stablize sheep and lamb numbers. Although 1967 slaughter is expected to be smaller, a decline this sharp is not in prospect.

Winter Slaughter Up Substantially

Weekly slaughter of sheep and lambs under Federal inspection through February averaged 19 percent larger than the relatively small slaughter rates last year, even though 6 percent fewer sheep and lambs were reported on feed at the beginning of the year and the lamb inventory was 4 percent smaller. At least part of the increase in slaughter this year over year-earlier levels is the result of delayed marketing of fed lambs early last year.

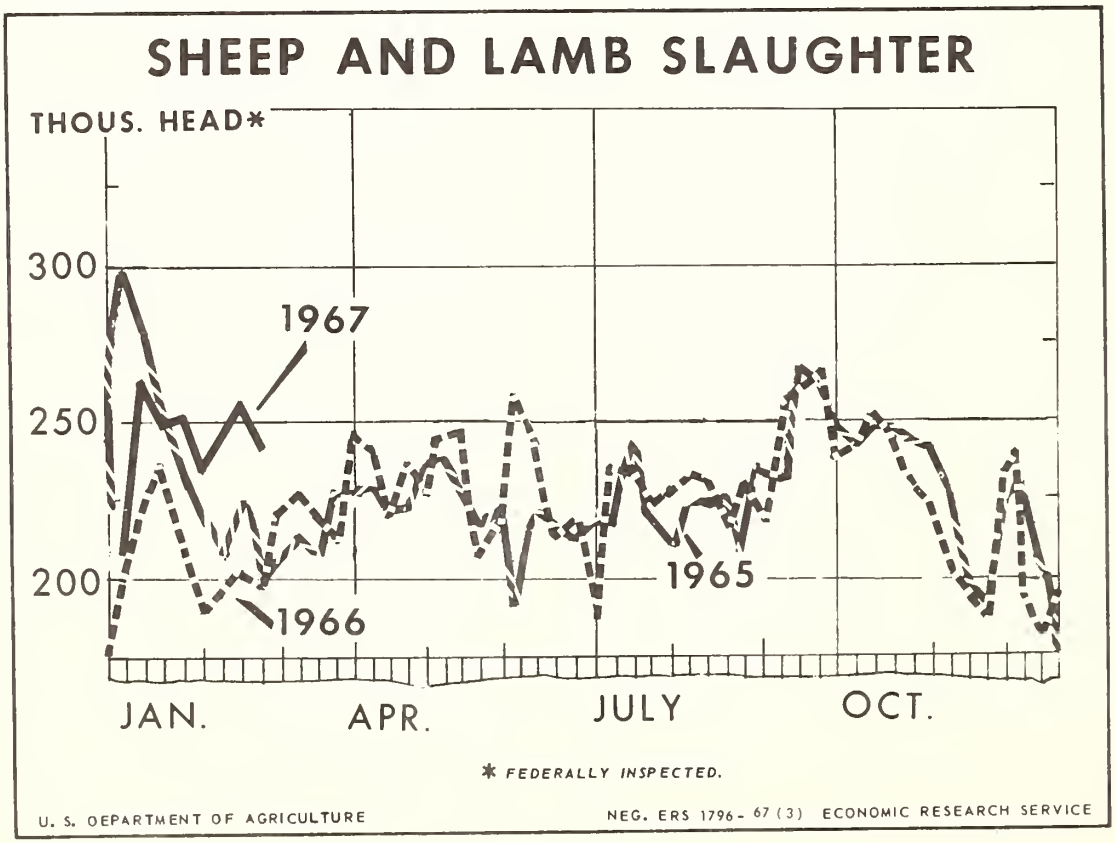
Live weights of lambs slaughtered under Federal inspection are currently averaging about 112 pounds per head. This is record high and about 8 pounds more than the unusually heavy weights in the winter of 1966. Increased slaughter, in addition to the increase in weights and the corresponding gain in the amount of lamb produced, has adversely affected lamb prices this winter. Heavyweight carcasses have been sharply discounted this winter. Choice grade, 55-65 pound lamb carcasses at Chicago are currently around $38.90 per 100 pounds. This is about $7.50 less than carcasses weighing 35-45 pounds. There was a similar discount late last winter.

Lamb slaughter this spring likely will be smaller than a year earlier. The lamb crop is expected to be down about 4 percent, although the crop in States producing the bulk of the early lambs may be down only 2 or 3 percent. Unless many winter-fed lambs are held unusually long

Table 10.--Balance sheet for sheep and lambs, United States, 1956 to date

Year	Number on farms Jan. 1	Born during year	Net exports	Slaughter	Deaths	Adjustment factor	Number on farms Dec. 31
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1956	31,157	20,336	+57	16,328	4,322	-132	30,654
1957	30,654	19,810	+18	15,292	4,353	+416	31,217
1958	31,217	20,686	-22	14,495	4,350	-474	32,606
1959	32,606	21,120	-54	15,528	4,539	-543	33,170
1960	33,170	21,012	-14	16,239	4,611	-621	32,725
1961 1/	32,725	20,782	+27	17,536	4,578	-397	30,969
1962	30,969	19,712	+16	17,171	4,519	+201	29,176
1963	29,176	18,516	+28	16,153	4,324	-71	27,116
1964	27,116	16,994	+10	14,897	4,255	+179	25,127
1965	25,127	16,312	+6	13,305	4,161	+767	24,734
1966	24,734	15,879	+51	2/13,000	2/3,850	+15	23,727
1967	23,727						

1/ Beginning 1961, 50-State total. 2/ Estimated.



(which seems unlikely in view of the sharp increase in slaughter so far this year) the level of lamb slaughter likely will drop below year-earlier levels this spring. Summer and fall lamb slaughter likely will also be down, but not enough to halt the liquidation in the sheep and lamb inventory.

Slaughter lamb prices at Denver in February were $20.50 per 100 pounds. This is about $2 to $3 less than during the fall, and $5 to $7 below the unusually high levels of a year earlier. Lamb prices are expected to rise this spring when new crop lambs are marketed and slaughter supplies drop below year-earlier levels. As in most years, summer prices likely will be lower than the spring peak. Although lamb supplies are expected to be smaller, continued large supplies of other meats, especially fed beef, will tend to limit any sustained strength in lamb prices.

The Livestock and Meat Situation is published in February, March, May, July, October, and November.

The next issue is scheduled for release May 10, 1967.

Table 11.--Meat subject to U.S. import quota restriction: Product weight of imports by months, average 1959-63, 1964-67

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1959-63 average	47,342	49,596	57,539	54,254	48,514	58,564	67,110
1964	87,232	44,873	68,877	61,363	51,113	98,152	43,726
1965	28,181	34,498	68,654	32,404	52,329	42,062	58,512
1966	51,397	60,341	49,419	63,334	51,954	100,222	61,361
1967	77,357						

Year	August	September	October	November	December	Total
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1959-63 average	84,131	76,055	61,599	56,106	61,396	722,206
1964	79,453	49,651	46,384	55,726	53,363	739,913
1965	59,917	62,208	64,411	57,281	53,747	614,204
1966	87,076	91,471	79,746	61,062	66,052	823,435
1967						

Table 12.--Rank of States in number of cattle and calves on farms, January 1, 1967

Rank	All cattle and calves		Beef cattle and calves (cattle not for milk)			
			Total		Beef cows 2 years and over	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Texas	10,757	Texas	10,146	Texas	5,251
2	Iowa	7,479	Iowa	6,403	Oklahoma	1,942
3	Nebraska	6,432	Nebraska	6,077	Nebraska	1,864
4	Kansas	5,506	Kansas	5,149	Missouri	1,699
5	California	4,844	Oklaohma	4,037	South Dakota	1,642
6	Missouri	4,655	Missouri	4,020	Kansas	1,627
7	South Dakota	4,323	South Dakota	3,986	Montana	1,466
8	Oklahoma	4,308	California	3,520	Iowa	1,354
9	Wisconsin	4,117	Illinois	2,946	Mississippi	1,153
10	Minnesota	4,077	Colorado	2,872	California	1,025
11	Illinois	3,593	Montana	2,786	Colorado	981
12	Colorado	3,046	Minnesota	2,145	North Dakota	976
13	Montana	2,869	Mississippi	2,030	Louisiana	910
14	Kentucky	2,543	North Dakota	1,999	Florida	900
15	Mississippi	2,440	Kentucky	1,913	Kentucky	885
16	North Dakota	2,292	Tennessee	1,724	Tennessee	865
17	Tennessee	2,285	Florida	1,636	Alabama	830
18	Ohio	2,073	Alabama	1,604	Arkansas	820
19	Indiana	2,019	Georgia	1,547	Georgia	754
20	New York	1,887	Indiana	1,521	Illinois	749
21	Alabama	1,877	Arkansas	1,471	New Mexico	696
22	Florida	1,877	Louisiana	1,451	Oregon	666
23	Georgia	1,797	Oregon	1,371	Wyoming	661
24	Louisiana	1,774	Wyoming	1,333	Idaho	513
25	Pennsylvania	1,763	New Mexico	1,266	Minnesota	457
26	Arkansas	1,653	Idaho	1,262	Virginia	455
27	Oregon	1,593	Ohio	1,251	Indiana	418
28	Idaho	1,557	Arizona	1,054	Arizona	380
29	Michigan	1,547	Washington	1,021	Washington	377
30	Wyoming	1,365	Virginia	950	Ohio	313
31	Virginia	1,363	Wisconsin	808	Utah	310
32	Washington	1,354	Michigan	664	North Carolina	303
33	New Mexico	1,333	North Carolina	631	Nevada	286
34	Arizona	1,134	Utah	615	South Carolina	237
35	North Carolina	971	Nevada	508	Wisconsin	194
36	Utah	747	South Carolina	486	West Virginia	183
37	South Carolina	605	Pennsylvania	474	Michigan	124
38	Nevada	534	West Virginia	318	Pennsylvania	102
39	West Virginia	427	Hawaii	214	Hawaii	87
40	Maryland	418	New York	150	Maryland	52
41	Vermont	344	Maryland	148	New York	50
42	Hawaii	236	Maine	23	Maine	9
43	New Jersey	151	New Jersey	16	New Jersey	6
44	Maine	145	Vermont	16	Vermont	4
45	Connecticut	123	Massachusetts	14	Massachusetts	4
46	Massachusetts	123	Connecticut	12	Connecticut	4
47	New Hampshire	77	Delaware	10	Delaware	3
48	Delaware	35	New Hampshire	7	Alaska	2
49	Rhode Island	15	Alaska	5	New Hampshire	2
50	Alaska	8	Rhode Island	2	Rhode Island	1
United States		108,491		85,612		34,592

Table 13.--Rank of States in number of milk cows and sheep on farms, January 1, 1967 and pigs saved 1966

Rank	Milk cows 2 years and over		All sheep and lambs		Number of pigs saved 1/	
	State	Number	State	Number	State	Number
		1,000 head		1,000 head		1,000 head
1	Wisconsin	2,180	Texas	4,802	Iowa	20,496
2	Minnesota	1,230	Wyoming	1,912	Illinois	11,233
3	New York	1,196	California	1,570	Indiana	6,634
4	Pennsylvania	848	Colorado	1,503	Missouri	6,512
5	California	841	South Dakota	1,428	Minnesota	5,184
6	Iowa	707	Montana	1,351	Nebraska	4,430
7	Michigan	565	Utah	1,046	Ohio	3,769
8	Ohio	557	Iowa	1,030	Wisconsin	3,373
9	Missouri	452	New Mexico	959	South Dakota	2,753
10	Kentucky	430	Idaho	844	North Carolina	2,236
11	Illinois	419	Ohio	767	Kansas	2,130
12	Texas	419	Minnesota	648	Kentucky	2,066
13	Tennessee	395	Oregon	616	Georgia	2,044
14	Indiana	323	Nebraska	541	Tennessee	1,723
15	Virginia	272	Arizona	527	Alabama	1,250
16	Mississippi	261	North Dakota	478	Texas	1,160
17	Nebraska	246	Illinois	466	Michigan	1,009
18	Kansas	245	Kansas	452	Virginia	755
19	Vermont	233	Missouri	358	Pennsylvania	688
20	South Dakota	229	Indiana	322	South Carolina	627
21	North Carolina	225	Michigan	261	Mississippi	614
22	Washington	217	Nevada	240	Oklahoma	594
23	Louisiana	215	Virginia	209	North Dakota	539
24	North Dakota	206	Wisconsin	185	Arkansas	492
25	Maryland	190	West Virginia	178	Florida	428
26	Florida	189	Pennsylvania	176	Colorado	321
27	Alabama	177	Washington	163	Louisiana	275
28	Oklahoma	173	Kentucky	159	Montana	270
29	Idaho	171	Oklahoma	145	California	264
30	Georgia	163	New York	102	Maryland	261
31	Oregon	132	Tennessee	75	Oregon	202
32	Arkansas	125	Louisiana	31	Idaho	172
33	Colorado	107	Alaska	24	Washington	155
34	New Jersey	103	Mississippi	23	New York	133
35	South Carolina	83	North Carolina	22	West Virginia	107
36	Utah	83	Maine	19	Massachusetts	99
37	West Virginia	82	Maryland	19	New Jersey	85
38	Massachusetts	78	Arkansas	11	Hawaii	83
39	Connecticut	77	Massachusetts	10	Utah	72
40	Maine	77	New Jersey	9	New Mexico	61
41	Arizona	56	Alabama	9	Delaware	53
42	Montana	55	Vermont	8	Arizona	53
43	New Hampshire	45	Georgia	7	Wyoming	35
44	New Mexico	41	Florida	6	New Hampshire	19
45	Wyoming	22	New Hampshire	5	Maine	16
46	Delaware	18	Connecticut	5	Connecticut	16
47	Hawaii	16	South Carolina	3	Vermont	13
48	Nevada	15	Delaware	3	Nevada	11
49	Rhode Island	10	Rhode Island	2	Rhode Island	8
50	Alaska	2	Hawaii	0	Alaska	2
United States		15,201		23,727		85,525

1/ Total pigs saved from December-May and June-November pig crops.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, July 1966 to date

Meat and period	Commercially produced							
	Supply			Distribution				
	Production 1/	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption: Total	Civilian consumption: Per person 2/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:								
July	1,556	212	90	6	220	40	1,592	8.2
August	1,733	220	129	7	216	60	1,799	9.3
September	1,713	216	134	7	231	55	1,770	9.2
3rd quarter	5,002	212	353	20	231	155	5,161	26.7
October	1,664	231	122	7	253	56	1,701	8.8
November	1,647	253	95	7	273	52	1,663	8.6
December	1,638	273	95	8	307	44	1,647	8.5
4th quarter	4,949	231	312	22	307	152	5,011	25.9
Year	19,460	260	1,182	83	307	638	19,874	103.0
Veal:								
July	68	7	1	2/	7	3	66	.3
August	79	7	1	2/	7	4	76	.4
September	76	7	2	1	8	4	72	.4
3rd quarter	223	7	4	1	8	11	214	1.1
October	75	8	3	2/	8	4	74	.4
November	72	8	2	1	9	5	67	.3
December	64	9	3	1	11	4	60	.3
4th quarter	211	8	8	2	11	13	201	1.0
Year	862	10	22	5	11	45	833	4.3
Lamb and mutton:								
July	50	22	10	1	26	2/	55	.3
August	54	26	11	3/	22	2/	69	.4
September	58	22	9	1	21	1	66	.3
3rd quarter	162	22	30	2	21	1	190	1.0
October	56	21	8	3/	20	1	64	.3
November	50	20	6	1	18	1	56	.3
December	51	18	8	3/	17	1/	60	.3
4th quarter	157	21	22	1	17	2	180	.9
Year	638	12	136	5	17	5	759	3.9
Pork:								
July	747	214	28	9	179	14	787	4.1
August	879	179	23	12	140	29	900	4.7
September	990	140	28	11	151	22	974	5.0
3rd quarter	2,616	214	79	32	151	65	2,661	13.8
October	1,029	151	34	16	171	23	1,004	5.2
November	1,103	171	31	14	206	22	1,063	5.5
December	1,107	206	32	15	234	21	1,075	5.5
4th quarter	3,239	151	97	45	234	66	3,142	16.2
Year	11,135	152	381	140	234	255	11,039	57.2
All meat:								
July	2,421	455	129	16	432	57	2,500	12.9
August	2,745	432	164	19	385	93	2,844	14.8
September	2,837	385	173	20	411	82	2,882	14.9
3rd quarter	8,003	455	466	55	411	232	8,226	42.6
October	2,824	411	167	23	452	84	2,843	14.7
November	2,872	452	134	23	506	80	2,849	14.7
December	2,860	506	138	24	569	69	2,842	14.6
4th quarter	8,556	411	439	70	569	233	8,534	44.0
Year	32,095	434	1,721	233	569	943	32,505	168.6

1/ Includes custom slaughtering for farmers beginning in 1966. Data are not comparable with other years. 2/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies. 3/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1966 Year average or total	1966 January	1966 February	1967 January	1967 February
CATTLE AND CALVES:						
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per					
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	27.11	27.75	29.27	25.77	25.72
Choice	do.	26.29	26.87	27.79	25.25	24.92
Good	do.	25.32	25.42	26.19	24.27	24.06
Standard	do.	23.34	23.12	23.86	22.69	22.24
Utility	do.	21.27	20.65	21.48	21.01	20.48
All grades	do.	26.17	26.65	27.55	25.20	24.92
Omaha, all grades	do.	25.27	25.18	26.56	24.30	23.68
Sioux City, all grades	do.	25.16	25.29	26.44	24.34	23.91
Cows, Chicago						
Commercial	do.	18.31	16.14	17.83	16.42	17.27
Utility	do.	18.02	15.83	17.72	16.98	17.92
Cutter	do.	17.29	14.95	16.72	16.32	17.14
Canner	do.	16.17	14.08	15.79	15.31	15.80
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	do.	32.41	33.70	35.50	32.32	32.18
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	25.42	24.64	26.38	24.32	24.04
Price received by farmers						
Beef cattle	do.	4/22.26	21.10	22.60	21.70	21.60
Cows	do.	4/16.68	14.40	16.30	16.30	17.00
Steers and heifers	do.	4/24.28	23.80	25.00	23.90	23.30
Calves	do.	4/26.03	24.70	26.40	26.10	26.60
HOGS:						
Barrows and gilts, U. S. No. 1, 2 & 3, Chicago						
200-220 pounds	do.	24.82	29.17	28.73	20.67	20.23
220-240 pounds	do.	24.51	28.59	28.38	20.36	19.97
240-270 pounds	do.	23.68	27.71	27.60	19.24	19.18
All weights	do.	23.66	28.21	27.88	19.61	19.53
Barrows and gilts, 8 markets 2/	do.	23.49	27.93	27.80	19.46	19.39
Sows, Chicago	do.	19.76	23.77	24.79	15.46	16.14
Price received by farmers	do.	4/22.89	27.30	27.20	18.90	18.80
Hog-corn price ratio 3/						
Chicago, barrows and gilts		17.9	21.8	21.7	14.1	14.2
Price received by farmers, all hogs		4/18.8	22.9	23.7	14.8	14.9
SHEEP AND LAMBS:	Dollars per					
Sheep	100 pounds					
Slaughter ewes, Good, Chicago	do.	8.30	9.00	9.00	7.50	7.50
Price received by farmers	do.	4/ 7.04	7.42	7.78	6.90	6.76
Lamb						
Slaughter, Choice, Chicago	do.	25.73	27.53	28.10	23.32	21.68
Feeder, Choice, S. St. Paul	do.	23.58	27.24	28.27	22.90	21.02
Price received by farmers	do.	4/23.56	25.90	26.60	21.90	20.10
All meat animals:						
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		4/ 356	369	384	330	328
MEAT:						
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per					
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	43.04	43.85	45.02	42.99	42.05
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	52.17	57.14	57.18	50.85	47.92
Composite hog products						
Including lard						
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	24.64	28.99	28.85		
Average per 100 pounds	do.	34.27	40.32	40.12		
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	29.83	33.35	33.51		
Average per 100 pounds	do.	42.01	46.96	47.19		
Excluding lard						
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	26.89	30.14	30.39		
Average per 100 pounds	do.	48.02	53.83	54.28		
Retail, United States average	Cents					
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	84.6	83.3	84.4	83.2	
Pork, retail cuts and sausage	do.	73.6	77.6	78.8	67.8	
Lamb, Choice grade	do.	86.4	82.2	86.4	85.2	
Index number meat prices (BLS)						
Wholesale (1957-59=100)		109.9	113.6	116.0	105.0	
Retail (1957-59=100)		116.8	116.6	118.8	112.8	

1/ Average all weights and grades
2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.
3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.
4/ Simple average.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1966 Year average or total	1966 January	1966 February	1967 January	1967 February
Meat animal marketings						
Index number (1957-59=100)		123	114	106	125	
Stocker and feeder shipments to 8 Corn Belt States	1,000					
Cattle and calves	head	8,056	484	389	514	
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,988	107	80	88	
Slaughter under Federal inspection						
Number slaughtered						
Cattle	do.	27,319	2,305	2,037	2,365	
Steers	do.	13,846	1,150	1,010	1,229	
Heifers	do.	6,935	551	497	587	
Cows	do.	6,120	572	501	518	
Bulls and stags	do.	420	32	29	31	
Calves	do.	4,432	382	376	372	
Sheep and lambs	do.	11,551	907	785	1,053	
Hogs	do.	63,729	4,719	4,650	6,280	
Percentage sows	Percent	8	6	5	6	
Average live weight per head						
Cattle	Pounds	1,031	1,046	1,040	1,058	
Calves	do.	201	206	194	192	
Sheep and lambs	do.	103	106	107	106	
Hogs	do.	244	243	239	245	
Average production						
Beef, per head	do.	595	596	593	614	
Veal, per head	do.	111	114	108	106	
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	51	52	52	52	
Pork, per head	do.	152	151	151	153	
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	62	62	63	62	
Lard, per head	do.	27	27	24	27	
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	11	11	10	11	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	16,218	1,370	1,204	1,449	
Veal	do.	490	43	40	39	
Lamb and mutton	do.	581	47	41	55	
Pork	do.	9,670	711	701	959	
Lard	do.	1,696	129	114	167	
Commercial slaughter 1/						
Number slaughtered	1,000					
Cattle	head	33,669	2,862	2,545	2,900	
Calves	do.	6,640	576	555	548	
Sheep and lambs	do.	12,721	991	858	1,149	
Hogs	do.	73,998	5,528	5,406	7,293	
Total production	Million					
Beef	pounds	19,460	1,655	1,465	1,728	
Veal	do.	862	75	69	67	
Lamb and mutton	do.	638	51	45	60	
Pork	do.	11,135	828	808	1,106	
Lard	do.	1,898	145	129	186	
Cold storage stocks first of month						
Beef	do.	---	260	251	307	323
Veal	do.	---	10	9	11	14
Lamb and mutton	do.	---	12	10	17	15
Pork	do.	---	152	155	234	255
Total meat and meat products 2/	do.	---	484	482	621	666

1/ Beginning 1966 federally inspected and other commercial plants including custom slaughtering of animals for farmers. Data not comparable with other years.

2/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

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